

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK DECLARED IN LA COUNTY
By Kathleen Piché, L.C.S.W., Public Affairs Director



With the help of LACDMH Board Liaison Adrienne Hament, the week of September 10, 2012, has been declared "Suicide Prevention Week" by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

LACDMH Chief Deputy Director Robin Kay and Deputy Director Carlotta Childs-Seagle were on hand to congratulate Didi Hirsch management and staff with Supervisor Don Knabe, 4th Supervisorial District, who hosted a reception in honor of the declaration.

Didi Hirsch raises awareness about suicide prevention at the annual Alive & Running 5K Walk and Run. For 14 years, the Alive & Running 5K Walk/Run has raised valuable funds to support the Didi Hirsch Suicide Prevention Center.

During the week of September 10th, county departments, community-based organizations and citizens are encouraged to inform the public of the availability of the center's 24-hour Suicide Hotline phone number (1-877-7- CRISIS or 1-877-727-4747) and to support and participate in the annual Alive & Running 5K Walk and Run for suicide prevention to be held in Westchester on Sunday, September 23, 2012.

The Alive & Running 5K is a fun and heart-warming way to increase suicide awareness. This family-oriented event features a Kiddie 1K, an entertaining program featuring Chikara Taiko Drummers, Cadet Corps and Color Guard from Walter Reed Middle School and an expo with lots of vendor booths, balloon artists and snow cones. Didi Hirsch will display a memorial banner, filled with pictures and names of the loved ones lost to suicide. You can find more info on

the walk/run at <http://events.didihirsch.org/site/PageServer>.

In the United States, a person dies by suicide every 15 minutes, claiming more than 36,000 lives a year. Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S. among adults 18-65, the second leading cause of death among teens and young adults, and seniors ages 65 and older account for 16 percent of all suicide deaths. This is a public health issue that does not discriminate by age, gender, ethnicity or socio-economic status.



Left to right: Board Liaison Adrienne Hament; Lyn Morris, Director, Didi Hirsh Suicide Prevention Center; Dr. Rebecca Gaba, Vice President, Didi Hirsh Clinical Operations; Richard Mogil, Didi Hirsh Suicide Prevention Center Program Director; Board Supervisor Don Knabe, Fourth District; LACDMH Chief Deputy Director Robin Kay; Dr. Kita Curry, CEO, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services; Sandri Kramer, Crisis Line Director, Didi Hirsh Suicide Prevention Center; Michael Wierwille, Didi Hirsh Board Chair; Janine Perron, Didi Hirsh Senior Grants Officer; Ester Ybarra Bryant, Didi Hirsh Volunteer.

